Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP Attorneys for Lexington Insurance Company 1133 Westchester Avenue White Plains, New York 10604 Attn: David L. Tillem, Esq. Tel. 914-872-7104 Fax. 914-323-7001 Our File No. 10907.00227

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

X	Motion Returnable: January 15, 2015 @ 11:00 am
	Motion Returnable, January 15, 2015 @ 11.00 air
In re:	Case No. 11-42921-CEC
DAVID HERZ,	Chapter 7
Debtor.	OBJECTION OF LEXINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY TO DEBTOR'S MOTION TO DISMISS CASE
X	

TO: HON. CARLA E. CRAIG:

CHIEF UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Lexington Insurance Company ("Lexington"), by its counsel, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP, as and for its objection to the Debtor's Motion to Dismiss his bankruptcy case pursuant to §§305(a) and 707(a) of the United States Bankruptcy Code, respectfully states as follows:

1. Lexington is the Assignee of three judgments against Esther Herz, the spouse of the debtor David Herz (the "Debtor"). Those judgments were liens against the real property subsequently transferred, without consideration, by Esther to the Debtor. Thus, when he acquired his listed real property at 1148 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York, he did so subject

to those judgment liens. As set forth below, the Debtor recognized this in his scheduling of the Bogatz judgment.

- 2. Lexington filed three proofs of claim on January 7, 2015, Claims 3, 4 and 5. Copies of the three proofs of claim are attached as Exhibits "A-1", "A-2" and "A-3."
- 3. Lexington was not aware that the Debtor's bankruptcy case had been reopened in 2014 until Moshie Solomon, counsel for the trustee, contacted this office on Monday, January 5, 2015, and advised us that the Debtor's case had been reopened due to the potential inheritance and that the Debtor now sought to dismiss the case on the ground there were no creditors. He inquired as to whether Lexington had an interest. Clearly, Lexington has an interest in this case and any funds that may flow to the trustee on behalf of the Debtor from the estate of Ellen Ruth Silberman. See, letter from attorney Donald F. Campbell, Jr., dated November 25, 2013, exhibit "B."
- 4. Lexington was previously aware of the No Asset chapter 7 case filed by the Debtor, which case was closed in January 2012. Lexington acquired two of the three judgments after the first closure of the Debtor's chapter 7 case. Only the Bogatz judgment was acquired before the case was closed. As this was a No Asset case, and the Bogatz judgment was subordinated to the Chase mortgages, Lexington did not appear or otherwise involve itself in the original bankruptcy case. Consequently, it was never notified that the case had been reopened.
- 5. Clearly, the Debtor knew about the Bogatz judgment and recognized that it was effectively a claim against him. See, Schedule D, "Creditors Holding Secured Claims" filed April 8, 2011, Docket No. 1, a copy of page one of which is attached as Exhibit "C."

- 6. Lexington is the current owner and holder of the Bogatz judgment. Currently, more than \$200,000 is owed on the Bogatz judgment alone. See, Exhibit A-1, Assignment of Bogatz Judgment to Lexington.
- 7. The stated basis for the Debtor's motion to dismiss is that there are allegedly no outstanding claims against the Debtor. Of the two claims filed, one was expunged and the second withdrawn. Lexington's assumes that because Bogatz was paid by Lexington and had assigned his judgment in 2011, he took no interest in the Debtor's bankruptcy case. If Bogatz was sent notice of the reopened case and the claims bar date, Lexington has no record of having received any notice from him of such. Thus, Lexington never received notice of the claims bar date.
- 8. Under general circumstances, missing a claims bar date might be fatal to a claim. But here, Lexington received no notice. Perhaps more relevant to this case is the simple fact that without any other creditors, there are funds available to pay even a late filed claim. See 11 U.S.C. § 726 (a)(2)(C) or (3).
- 9. Lexington's claims, set forth in the Proofs of Claims filed January 7, 2015, Exhibits A-1, A-2 and A-3, can and should be paid by this estate, now that assets have clearly been identified.
- 10. As a result of the foregoing, the Debtor's basis for dismissing this case no longer applies and therefore the application should be denied.

WHEREFORE, Lexington Insurance Company respectfully requests that the Debtor's Motion to Dismiss his case pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§305(a) and 707(a) should be denied,

together with such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 8, 2015

White Plains, New York

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP Attorneys for Creditor Lexington Insurance Company

By: <u>s/David L. Tillem</u> David L. Tillem

TO:

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